



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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COUNCIL APPROVES BILL TO REQUIRE COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO MOVE FORWARD NOW ON OFFERING SAFE, LOWER-PRICED DRUGS TO EMPLOYEES, RETIREES

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The Montgomery County Council today gave overwhelming approval to a bill that would require the County Government's Office of Human Resources to offer each County employee or retiree the option of buying safe, high-quality, lower-priced prescription maintenance drugs through one or more domestic or foreign benefit managers.

"We are moving ahead with a voluntary program that allows County agency employees, retirees, and their dependents to order maintenance drugs from an approved Canadian supplier," said Council President Tom Perez, who sponsored the measure. "A safe, legal program can save taxpayers millions of dollars and save employees and retirees prescription drug costs. The safeguards in this bill satisfy any reasonable concern about safety."

"Canada's system of quality control is, if anything, superior to our own. And there is a far greater health risk to Americans from not taking medication they need because of exorbitant cost than any supposed Canadian problem."

"We are trying to save the taxpayers money. We are trying to insure that folks with high prescription maintenance drug costs get some relief. We are trying to push the envelope on an issue where the big pharmaceutical companies and the politicians they own on Capitol Hill have stymied any effective federal action on affordable drugs."

"We know that it's 'politics' that is getting in the way of importing safe, high-quality drugs from Canada, not science. It's the 769 registered drug company lobbyists on Capitol Hill that are thwarting efforts by Republican and Democratic legislators alike to move reimportation forward."

Montgomery County joins approximately 30 other state, municipal, and county jurisdictions in moving to establish similar prescription drug programs.

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